

Dear FCC Commissioners & Staff:

Dear Chairman Powell

I am owner and President of Atlas Communications a small independant Internet Service Provider in Springfield Missouri. We have been in the internet business since 1998 and currently serve over 3,500 Southwest Missouri customers with dial-up access, web site hosting and other internet related services on a very close and personal level with our customers.

I am sending this letter in the hope that my words, along with the words of many other small ISPs, will help you and others understand the potential repurcussions of current rules changes the FCC is now considering.

You are aware I am sure that it is a foregone conclusion that current standard dial-up internet access is a technology that is not going to be around forever. As high-speed broadband technologies continue to be introduced in more and more areas, more and more people are going to desire to move to these broadband connections if the price is realistic and the service is quality.

Unfortunately, at present time, it is very difficult, if not impossible in some areas, for small ISPs like mine to enter the broadband market. The lack of adequate access to telephone company systems, the high cost of phone company tarriffs, and the RBOC's blatant anti-competitive attitude makes it nearly impossible to pursue any wide-scale broadband roll-out. Small companies like mine cannot afford to hire the staff of high priced attorneys and lobbyists to try and sway the government to our way of thinking.

And, unfortunately rather than jumping to the defense of the independant isps, the changes you are proposing will make it even more difficult for companies like mine to compete or even exist in the future.

Companies like mine are the life-blood of the internet. There are over 7,000 small independant Internet Service Providers nationwide. If these companies are prevented from competing in the future, it will be a major blow to customer choice and competition.

Please see the proposed regulations for what they are - a thumbs up in support of giving the RBOCs even more monopolistic capabilities. Please say no to these new regulations. It is vital that competition in internet access be protected and nurtured for the good of the American Consumer and not destroyed for the sake of big monopolistic Phone Companies.

The U.S. government broke up AT&T because it was a monopoly in the telephone business. Please don't help create new broadband monopoly companies while destroying small businesses in the process. Do what is right and proper for the good of the American Consumer.

I will be sending a copy of this to my Congressional Representatives. Thank you for your consideration.

Steven T Powell
Atlas Communications

Sincerely,

Steven T Powell

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